

AREA ONE HEADQUARTERS

Weekly Report

(February 8 to 14, Inclusive)

15 February 1945

AREA HEADQUARTERS

Area headquarters is still at Mongwi SO 3836 with Major Sherman B. Joost, jr., commanding.

The critical battalion supply situation (SEE Feb. 1-7 Report) had not been cleared up at the beginning of the week. Battalions were still not receiving drops on schedule and vital movements were being seriously impeded through this failure.

Lt. Col. Harry W. Little, jr., flew into Mongwi on February 8 in an effort to help remedy the repeated supply failures and seek a definite and lasting solution to the problem. He remained over night and Major Joost accompanied him back to Detachment 101 Headquarters, Bhamo, in order to see that proper action was initiated.

Toward the end of the week there has been a definite improvement in the supply schedules but it is still far from perfect. Drops that were previously delayed three and four days without explanation are now coming through with a semblance of timeliness if not completeness. However, Major Lutken's battalion has been held up since February 12 when it was due a drop and changed its schedule to the 14th for a ration drop of one plane. This latter drop also failed to come through.

The Third Battalion was also scheduled for a drop on the 14th. Drop grounds were designated at Loihsa ST 6576. One plane/^{load} was received here and another at Mankwe ST 6878 and only included two days supply of "K" rations, PX and mail.

When Major Joost visited base headquarters on February 2 and 3, a new standard food drop based largely on the Chinese ration was agreed upon. Thus far no battalion has received any ration drop vaguely approximating it either in kind or quantity. Also rice which is the Kachin's main food continues to diminish in quantity on each successive drop. Two pounds daily is the average consumption per man when the battalions are not on the march.

The Fifth Battalion received a 4.2 mortar on the eleventh. It did not have sights, range cards or an instruction book. Similarly the First Battalion received two 81 mm. mortars without sights.

Considerable trouble with the Chinese regular forces of the 30th Division committing atrocities in the Kachin villages in the Kawngmu SO 7864 area has been reported and forwarded onto base for action. Many soldiers of the Sixth Battalion live in this area and have been released to return to their homes and protect their families. (For fuller details, SEE Sixth Battalion.)

On the 14th, 101 Kachin recruits from the area east of the Moyang Yu SO 8882 ~~area~~ road junction. These men will be sent to the Sixth Battalion on the 15th to be replacements for those who were released.

Further trouble with the Chinese was reported by Mr. Zao Lawn, who is in charge of American Kachin Ranger affairs at Sinlunkaba. Seven Chinese deserters killed Naik (Cpl.) Au Grawng of the Homeguard Company, Kywng Lawt, on January 28 on the trail between Bumchyang SO 2499 and SJ 2701. His wife is still missing.

Zao Lawn also reports that 8 Chinese regulars stationed at Maru-wahtang were also committing depredations upon the Kachins in the area. These Chinese, he claimed, were not wanted in the Sinlum Hill Tracts and could do no good there. The matter has been turned over to the Chinese Military authority for the arrest and disciplining of the 8 soldiers.

A protest from the First Battalion that the Air Corps bombed and strafed the village of Inailong ST 5661 on the tenth just as it ~~entered~~ ^{WAS ATTACKING} the village was forwarded to base.

Arrivals at Mongwi

2/8 - Lt. Col. Little and 2nd Lt. Weyland from Bhamo.

2/9 - Major Pitman from Bhamo and 1st Lt. MacKenzie from 1st Prov.

Tank Regt. Headquarters at Muse.

2/10 - Major Joost from Bhamo.

2/13 - 2nd Lt. Denham and 1st Lt. Borgerson from Bhamo.

Departures from Mongwi

2/9 - Lt. Col. Little and Major Joost to Bhamo. Sgt. Rackett to Bhamo.

2/10 - 1st Lt. MacKenzie to Muse.

2/11 - Major Pitman and 2nd Lt. Weyland to Bhamo.

2/12 - 2nd Lt. Denham to Bhamo.

Light Planes Used

2/8 - 1 Plane. Brought in Col. Little and Lt. Weyland and then evacuated two wounded hypenlas from Lutken's headquarters to Myitkyina.

2/9 - 1 Plane brought in Major Pitman and Lt. MacKenzie and then took Col. Little and Major Joost to Bhamo. Returned in afternoon and evacuated T/4 Rackett who was ill.

2/10 - 1 plane brought Major Joost to Mongwi. Took Lt. MacKenzie to Muse and then evacuated Agen Joe Paul and wounded hypenla from Lutken's headquarters.

2/11 - 1 plane took Major Pitman and Lt. Weyland out and dropped message to Sinlunkaba.

2/12 - 1 Plane in. Made drop to 1st Battalion and then took Lt. Denham to Bhamo.

2/13 - 2 planes in. First took Lt. Denham and Lt. Borgerson in and second took in generator. 1st made trip with Major Hamm to Lutken.

It returned to Ongwi with Major Hamm and had to remain over night because of insufficient gasoline. Could not leave on following day because of inclement weather.

Supply Drop - C-47's

2/10 - One plane drop of canned fruits, money, clothing, PX and mail.

GI Personnel

Major Sherman B. Joost, jr., Area Commander
Major Newell Brown, Area Intelligence and Executive Officer
1st Lt. Robert R. Rodenberg, Area Reports and Supply Officer
2nd Lt. Archie L. Denham, Area Communications Officer
T/Sgt. Robert DeWeese, Medic
S/Sgt. Robert B. Cate, jr., Crypt NCO
T/Sgt. John Karsen, Pigeon NCO
T/4 Melbourne Rackett, Radio NCO
T/4 Soo W. Lim, Radio Operator and Maintenance
T/4 Roger Campbell, Pigeoneer
Cpl. Lyle Estelle, Radio Operator
T/5 Jerry Genaw, Radio Operator
T/5 John Bezverkov, Radio Operator
Pfc. Larrabee Johnson, Crypt
Pfc. Raymond Loraski, Crypt
Sp.2/c John Conley, Crypt
Mike (Soares), Radio Operator

Major Edward Hamm, Temporary
1st Lt. J. M. Borgerson, Temporary

FIRST BATTALION

First Battalion headquarters is still at Kaunghko ST 5969 with a drop ground at Man-Kang ST 6067. Captain Joseph Lazarsky is battalion commander.

The 1st Battalion is operating closely with the 2nd Battalion.

On February 13 and 14, Captain Lazarsky visited Loihsa ST 6576 and conferred with Lt. Grimwood, 2nd Battalion commander, and agreed that both battalions would station one company each at Manhtam ST 6874 and would patrol the motor road there. Lt. Mudrinich will have a company from the 1st Battalion there and Lt. Fitzhugh will be stationed there with a 2nd Battalion company.

Radio communication between the two battalions is already maintained.

On the 10th when the 1st Battalion was attacking I Nai Long ST 5661, the Air Corps bombed and strafed battalion as well as Japanese positions there. The Air Corps participation was unsolicited and impeded an intended ground attack that was to follow the mortar fire then in progress. A protest from Captain Lazarsky to this effect was forwarded to base headquarters. (SEE Mongwi.)

A 4.2 mortar that was dropped to the battalion on the 12th was declared too large and also impractical for use by Captain Lazarsky. Two 81 mm. mortars were also dropped in at the time without sights. (SEE Mongwi.)

Agent Pat (British Captain Pat Quinn) is still with the First Battalion. Tang, a Nazira trained Kachin, and Zau Lawn, a Kachin school teacher, left Mongwi on the 11th to join Pat and set up a radio communications and intelligence station under his direction.

Art, one of Pat's agents, left Kaunghko on the 13th and will set up near Lashio.

Pfc. Robert V. Lewis arrived at Kaunghko on the 14th.

Battalion Positions

2/9 - Battalion headquarters and 1 company at Kaungko ST 5969.

1 company going to I Nai Long ST 5661, 1 company to Hopok ST 6867 and 1 company to establish road block at ST 4660.

2/ 14 - Same with following changes: Hopok Company to Manhtam ST 6874 with combined patrols ~~one each from I Nai Long and Hopok~~ covering road.

Operational Activity

2/10 - Subjected I Nai Long ST 5661 to mortar fire and were planning ground attack when Air Corps without warning attacked both battalion and Jap positions. Jap casualties unknown. (SEE above.)

2/10 - Large number of Japs attacked while coming down Hsenwi-Lashio Road at ST 7373 south of Nawnglui. Platoon had to pull out and the number of Jap casualties was not ascertained.

2/13 - Short skirmish with Japanese on the Nampyen trail when Captain Lazarsky was enroute to Second Battalion headquarters. Casualties unknown.

2/12 - 1 American Kachin Ranger hypenla was wounded when combined patrol of 1st and 2nd battalions encountered 7 Japs one half mile from Kawngai ST 6966. The Japs fled after firing only one shot.

2/12 - One company contacted Japs in the area of ST 4959 and had one hour skirmish. No details yet.

Supply Drops - C-47's

2/8 - Received drop of 2,000 pounds rice, demolitions and PX.

2/10 - Received two plane drop.

2/12 - Received drop of clothing, ammunition and mortars. Also 1200 pounds rice, 80 boxes "K" rations and 8 boxes peas. Also fifty .303 rifles.

GI Personnel Roster

Captain Joseph Lazarsky, Battalion Commander
Captain Robert B. C. Franklin, Area Medical Officer
1st Lt. Daniel Mudrinich
Lt. Stein
Lt. Hartman
Lt. Yemisuki, Nisei
M/Sgt. Eric Eckhardt, Combat
1st Sgt. Pettigrew, Medic
S/Sgt. Leander P. Jones, Crypt
Cpl. Bart Reeves, Radio Operator
Pfc. Robert V. Lewis
Gunner Oliver, Combat

Lt. Berg, MISSING IN ACTION

SECOND BATTALION

Second Battalion headquarters is still at Loihsa ST 6576 with drop grounds also there. 1st Lt. Phillip Greenwood is battalion commander.

The Second Battalion is working closely with the First and has regular radio contact with it. (See FIRST BATTALION.)

Operational activities of this battalion were seriously hampered when ammunition requests failed to come through on schedule. On the 9th a company under Captain Barnwell was forced to pull out during an engagement with the Japanese near Loiweg ST 6978 after killing 5 Japanese because of lack of ammunition. Activities of Lt. Larum's company ~~at Loiweg ST~~ around Loilem ST 6487 were also curtailed because of the scarcity of ammunition.

Lt. Grimwood was high in the praise of the American officers during the past week and also commented on the excellent conduct of the Kachins under the circumstances.

The Second Battalion has advised the Sixth Battalion to use the Tahkai ST 6088 bridge to cross the Nam Tu River. It is still intact and the 2nd battalion can afford protection, Lt. Grimwood announced. Lt. Larum and his company are to meet the Sixth Battalion on the 15th at Loikaw ST 5394. A radio schedule with the 6th has been requested and will be put into effect.

The Air Corps was requested not to strike any traffic along the Burma Road at Bench Mark 3009 (ST 7171) and BM 2379 (ST ⁷⁷⁷⁶~~7776~~) at dawn on the 9th. Road blocks were to be established in this area.

Lt. Grimwood announced that his battalion would not use "handy-talkie" radio sets as they were impracticable.

Sgt. Quentin Enos who was assigned to the Second Battalion was ordered to the Third Battalion.

Positions of Battalion

2/8 - Headquarters at Loihsa. Captain Barnwell with company at ST 7577, Lt. Larum with Company at Manhtam ST 6874 and Lt. Fitzhugh's company with road block ambushes at ST 7373 and ST 7878.

2/9 - Lt. Larum with company at Nambamong ST 6581 (not on map).

2/13 * Lt. Larum with company enroute Loikaw to meet Sixth Battalion. Lt. Fitzhugh with company at Manhtam and will patrol with Lt. Mudrinich's company of 1st Battalion. Ambushes at ST 7284 and ST 6992.

2/14 - No change.

Operational Activities

2/8 - Lt. Larum's company was attacked by 125 Japs who had crossed at Loilem ST 6487. Nam Tu at Tahkai ST 6088 as it was going into position ~~near Liweng ST 7578~~. This action interfered with the company going into ambush positions along the road. One ~~1~~ bren gun was lost and no AKR casualties. Number of Jap casualties is unknown. Company in bad need of ammunition.

2/8 - 16 Japs killed and 3 trucks destroyed by ambushes of Lt. Fitzhugh's company at ST 7373 and ST 7878. All traffic was stopped on road between 2100 on 8th and 0100 on 9th. There were more Japs probably killed.

2/9 - 5 Japs were definitely killed and more probables when the Japs attacked Captain Barnwell's company at Loingu ST 7578. Company was forced to pull out to Liweng ST 6978 when it ran out of ammunition. The Japs mortared the Loingu position for more than one hour before moving in.

2/12 - Manhtam companies contacted Japs at ST 6968. No casualties.

Supply Drops - C-47's

2/10 - Ammo and 2 day ration drop received. 1 plane failed to get in because of thunderstorm.

2/12 - Arms, ammo and demolitions received.

2/13 - 2 plane drop of ammo and supplies received.

GI Personnel Roster

1st Lt. Phillip Grimwood, Battalion Commander
Captain Dan Barnwell, Company Commander
1st Lt. Norman R. Larum, Company Commander
2nd Lt. Robert Fitzhugh, Company Commander
S/Sgt. Bernard Pruett, Crypt
Sgt. Hamada, Nisei
Cpl. Carl Nordsieck, Medic
Gersbeck
Gale
Sp2/c Christopher Rubio, Radio Operator
Hans, Radio Operator

THIRD BATTALION

Third Battalion headquarters is currently at Mankwe ST 6878.
1st Lt. Thomas T. Chamales is battalion commander.

This battalion also was held up by lack of drops coming through on schedule. (See MONGWI.) An attack on Pangnkai ST 4882 on the 10th was ~~not~~ cut short when the battalion ran shy of ammunition.

Drops scheduled for the 9th did not reach the battalion until the 11th. This was partly due to two C-47's being forced to return when they became iced up from bad weather. Then when the ration drop did get through it was extremely short but did enable the battalion to push forward. This drop was at Kaungkwe ST 5679.

Two hundred rifles that were not ordered were dropped to it on the 9th at Kaungkwe. No ammunition was included. Some rifles were turned over to friendly villagers while others were buried.

On the 11th Lt. Chamales conferred with Captain Lazarsky of the 1st Battalion and in the morning and with Lt. Greenwood of the 2nd Battalion in the afternoon. Overall plans and battalion coordination were discussed.

Sgt. Quentin Enos who has been with the battalion will remain with it. He was scheduled to go to the 2nd. S/Sgt. Shigeto Mazawa, Nisei interrogator, has been ordered to report to NCAC and will do so as soon as a light plane strip is constructed near the battalion. He was on detached service.

Battalion positions

2/8 - Crossed motor road at ST 5483. Patrols to Mong Yin ST 4481, Pangnkam ST 4982 and Loiweg ST 6978.

2/9-2/11 - Battalion at Kaungkwe ST 5679.

2/14 - Battalion headquarters at Mankwe ST 6878.

Operational Activities

- 2/9 - Jap positions near Mong Yin attacked. Casualties unknown.
- 2/10 - 2 Japs killed at Namen ST 5682.
- 2/10 - 21 Japs killed on attack of Pangnkam ST 4882 under heavy Japanese artillery fire. The Japs were identified as ^{OP}the 56th Division, 113th Infantry, Western 46.

Supply Drops

- 2/11 - 1 plane food and 1 plane ammunition received.
- 2/9 - 1 plane of 200 rifles not requested received.
- 2/14 - 1 plane rations received at Loihsa and 1 plane at Mankwe.

GI Personnel Roster

1st Lt. Thomas T. Chamales, Battalion Commander
Captain Alvin Freudenburg, Executive Officer
1st Lt. Sam S. Woolington, Medical Officer
S/Sgt. Shigeto Mazawa, Nisei
Sgt. Quentin Enos, Transferred from 2nd Battalion
Cpl. Robert Laurel, Combat
T/5 Heath Edwards, Medic
Pfc. Al Dobberstein, Combat
Pvt. Bouches, Combat
Peter Garstin, Radio Operator

FIFTH BATTALION

Fifth Battalion headquarters is currently at Panghpyet ST 5353 with Captain Lazum Tang commanding.

This battalion also had trouble with its supply drops during the week. (See Mongwi) On the 11th a radio intended for the 1st Battalion was dropped to it and smashed on landing. Also in the same drop were photos intended for the 6th.

On the 14th an unexpected and uncalled for supply drop was made to it. It also had too much rice which was a commodity that the other battalions were in sore need.

The headman of Manhpai ST 6350 and the Japanese interpreter there were taken into custody on the 12th and are being held for questioning. Also the Superintendent of the North Shan States and a party of three were captured at Manhpai on the 13th. A Japanese non-commissioned officer who was following the party was killed when he refused to surrender and an AKR hypenla was wounded ^{by him}. The Shan superintendent has been most cooperative in dispensing information on Japanese positions and movements in his area.

Positions of Battalion

2/8-2/14 - Battalion headquarters has been at Panghpyet ST 5353 with patrols and ambushes operating to Manhpai, Naha ST 5560 and throughout the area.

Operational Activities

2/8 - Small Jap patrol attacked battalion headquarters at Manhpai. No casualties reported.

2/9 - 1 Jap killed by AKR armed homeguard at Loitop ST 4973.

2/11 - Skirmish with Japs along road at ST 6346. No casualties.

2/12 - Between 50 and 100 Japs were routed from Naha ST 5560 and surrounding countryside on following day. The Japs offered no opposition and retreated in disorder. Their positions were mortared.

2/13 - Handcar on small gauge line near coordinates ST 5653 was destroyed. Some Jap clothing but no identification was seized. A communications line there was cut.

2/13 - 1 Jap garter sergeant was killed at Manhpai and one AKR was wounded. Superintendent of North Shan States and three others taken into custody. (See ABOVE.) Villagers warned platoon that the Japs were planning on surrounding village and attacking them. In early evening, Japs opened up with machine gun and rifle fire from two directions and platoon withdrew without casualties.

Supply Drops - C-47's

- 2/10 - Supply drop received.
- 2/11 - Food and Supply drop received.
- 2/13 - Unexpected food drop received.

GI Personnel Roster

Captain Lazum Tang, Battalion Commander
Captain Arthur Brunstad
1st Lt. Walter A. O'Brien
2nd Lt. John E. Pangborn, jr.
S/Sgt. William Brough, Combat
Sgt. James McKinley, Medic
T/4 Sheichi Kurahashi, Nisei
Cpl. Floyd E. Maves
Pfc. Theodore Chadsey, Radio and Crypt
Pfc. Warren Goodnight

SIXTH BATTALION

The Sixth Battalion is currently on the move and is expected at Hsai Hkao SO 5202 on the 15th. Major Robert Delaney and Major Kyaw Thu are battalion co-commanders.

This battalion issued strong complaints against the Chinese regular forces of the 30th Division who were committing atrocities around the village of Kawngmu SO 7864. (See MONGWI) Many of the hyphenals from the 6th are from this vicinity and asked for honorable discharges to return and protect their homes. These discharges were granted in many instances.

One agent was killed at Man Long SO 7925 on February 6 by an advance group of Chinese 30th Division soldiers who did not bother to question him.

One hundred and one recruits are now at Mongwi ready to leave for the Sixth Battalion as replacements. (See MONGWI)

Search parties were dispatched in an attempt to rescue the occupants of a B-25, P-47 and L-5 that had crashed landed in the area. There were two persons seen to emerge from the B-25 that crashed near Hona SO 8121 on the tenth. An L-5 that attempted to fly in and rescue them also crashed. It was learned that two crew men were taken to Manlung SO 7925 and that two more Americans were found in the vicinity of Namhkai SO 7232 and were looking ^{villagers} for them.

for another American who was reported as seen walking in the area although wounded. The P-47 and L-5 pilots have been instructed to go to the river junction at SO 7519 and to surrender to any Kachin Rangers dressed in GI clothes. Thus far the searching parties have not returned.

The Sixth will be afforded cover and guides by the 2nd Battalion as it crosses the Nam Tu within the next few days. (See 2nd Battalion)

Positions of Battalion

2/8-2/14 - Battal on headquarters at Namngun SO 6311 with companies in the surrounding vicinity. Battalion moved out to south and west on the 14th.

Supply Drops - G-47's

2/9 - 2 plane drop. 1 food and other with arms and equipment. 150 .9mm M3 submachine guns that were not ordered were dropped without ammunition.

2/10 - Ammunition drop received.

Operational Activities

2/9 - 30 to 50 Japs encountered as they were trying to cross river at SO 6914. No casualties reported.

2/10 - 8 Japs and some armed Palaungs driven back as they attempted river crossing at same point, SO 6914. No casualties.

GI Personnel Roster

Major Kyaw Thu, Battalion Commander (Joint)
Major Robert Delaney, Battalion Commander (Joint)
1st Lt. Douglas B. Martin, Company CO
2nd Lt. Palmer L. Hanson, Company CO
2nd Lt. Leroy J. Wright, Company CO
2nd Lt. Pierre D. Mead
Sgt. Paul Froberg
Alley (Schiller), Radio and Crypt

SEVENTH BATTALION

Seventh Battalion headquarters is still at Hungwe where it has been detained because of drop delays. Major Peter Lutken is battalion commanding officer.

(For drop difficulties, see MONGWI.)

570572

WN-10162-23

Major Lutken has in his possession Baldwin worker Identification cards, Police certificates, Japanese gas masks, weapons, clothes, pictures and maps. He is planning on sending these to base via light plane.

Five wounded men were evacuated from Lutken's strip during the week. Two on the 8th, two on the 10th and 1 on the 13th when Major Hamm flew in.

During a skirmish with the enemy at Kyaukpyu ST 025515, a Detachment 101 constructed radio which was in the hands of the Japanese was recovered. The Japs had apparently been using the radio.

Battalion Positions

2/8-2/14 - Battalion headquarters at Hungwe ST 0572. On 13th recruits that had been training at Loipangnang reported to battalion headquarters. Patrols have been throughout the area in constant contact with the Japs.

Operational Activities

2/6 - 2 Japs killed near Namai ST 0693.

2/10 - Skirmish with Japs at Kyaukpyu. No casualties. Japs fled leaving Detachment 101 made radio. (See ABOVE)

Supply Drops

2/8 - Drop received.

2/9 - Short food drop received.

GI Personnel Roster

Major Peter Lutken, Battalion Commander
Captain Carl E. Roberts
1st Lt. Gordon E. Totten
2nd Lt. John A. McCargar
S/Sgt. Wesley E. Richardson
T/5 Curtis Schultz
Pfc. William J. Russell
Percy Unger
Eric
Ernie
Sausen